

Wednesday night and in a number of press briefings since then, Administration officials insist that Mr. Clinton made the decision to strike based on the U.N.'s finding of non-compliance. My question is: which version is it? Did they decide it on Sunday or did they decide on Tuesday? This, at minimum, undermines their argument that they learned about it Tuesday and had to act Wednesday. Excluding the two interim reports and several infringements they knew about it for weeks and days and chose to strike Wednesday.

Red Flag #3—Though I agree with what the President said on Wednesday night, the problem lies in the fact that it is old news. In some ways it's old news over the last year, and it has certainly been reinforced several times over the last several months. Scott Ritter, a former United States Marine Corps officer and Gulf War veteran, resigned his post on the U.N. Inspection Team in August. In September he testified before Congress on the reasoning behind that resignation. In both his testimony and his resignation, Mr. Ritter's reasoning and facts were the same that the President suggested was new information on Wednesday. In fact, since mid-November, the Iraqis have thrown a series of impediments in front of the U.N. inspection teams. As you might remember, the inspections team returned to Iraq on November 17th and within days their efforts were being thwarted on November 25th, November 26th, November 29th, December 4th and December 9th the Iraqis hampered our efforts. The government of Iraq thwarted UN Inspection Teams in a number of different efforts ranging from proposed schedule of work to inspections of a variety of different sites. The White House knew about each of these incidents and in fact, Richard Butler produced two interim reports. Suddenly, this week, the Administration has painted Saddam Hussein as a "clear and present danger" when his actions are no different now than they were last year or earlier this year.

Red Flag #4—I am struck with the unconventional use of force. Any of the Pentagon folks that I've been around over the last several years have suggested that the American military typically places overwhelming force at the beginning of engagement to minimize the risks of casualties to Americans. That is certainly not the case in this present conflict with Iraq. In 1991, we had a full six carrier battle group in the Persian Gulf. Today, we have just one. Even on November 15, the date of our last staredown with Saddam, we had 2 carrier battle groups in place in the Persian Gulf. Now, we are told by Secretary Cohen, another carrier battle group is on the way and will be there by the weekend and that more aircraft are on the way. This raises another question: Is our new military strategy to amass a force slowly after the initial moment of engagement?

On this point, not only have we amassed our forces slowly, we have little over 200 planes prepared for this engagement, while we had 2,700 aircraft in the Persian Gulf of 1991. More significantly, we've essentially made no efforts to build support in the region for our undertaking. In the Persian Gulf War, we had 36 allies. In this engagement, only Great Britain has joined us in risking military personnel.

Red Flag #5—This hasty engagement broke previous procedure used prior to the use of force. I spoke with Porter Goss, head of Select Intelligence Committee in the U.S. House

of Representative, who learned of this incident the same way I did—on CNN. This is highly unusual policy. Typically in a military engagement or a buildup to a military engagement, he would have been forwarded and briefed.

Red Flag #6—We are not sure of our strategy. Some have suggested that because of the onset of Ramadan, a month of peace in the Muslim world, we will be wrapping up our efforts in a matter of days. If so, this pin prick effort is sure not to do any great damage to Saddam. Using 2,700 aircraft in a 42 day engagement, he stayed in power. Does he have to do little more than hide for a few days if he knows an engagement is going to be curtailed by a religious holiday?

Red Flag #7—With air strikes limited to just a few days, what is the outcome we hope to get? We were told that we want to thwart his ability to produce weapons of mass destruction and yet the very nature of biological or chemical weapons makes them very difficult to detect. If one was charged with hiding gallon-sized milk jugs across the state of Texas, and then someone else 30 days later was charged with bombing those gallon sized milk jugs, my bet is that at the end of the month there would be plenty of well-hidden milk jugs absolutely unharmed. Similarly, we can tear down buildings maybe 4, maybe 40, maybe 400, but if they are not buildings that weaken what the military calls his center of gravity, his access to strength, then it will do little to no good. If we're serious about this we ought to be aiming for his Republican Guard and other pieces of the formula that's keeping him in power. There are no clear efforts to weaken these components of his power.

In summary, as you walk through these red flags, too many of them suggest that the timing of this engagement may have been politically motivated. I think we should make every effort to ensure that even the appearance of that politicization doesn't come back to rest on the shoulders of American troops. We can do better than that and the men and women of our armed services deserve it.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN GLENN POSHARD

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, December 19, 1998

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the public service of my very good friend, Congressman GLENN POSHARD.

GLENN and I were elected to Congress during the same year, 1988, and worked together as a team to represent the 22nd and 21st Districts of Illinois until those districts changed in 1992. Since then, GLENN has represented the 19th District and I have represented the 12th District, which covers a large amount of territory formerly in GLENN's old congressional seat.

I can tell you that there is no one in Southern Illinois who is held in higher esteem than GLENN POSHARD. During his race for Governor in 1998, GLENN ran a race that made all of his colleagues in the Illinois Delegation proud. However, I can tell you that the constituents in my district who know and love GLENN POSHARD were also very proud of his congressional service and his race for Governor.

GLENN has always been a unique representative. He made the decision early in his congressional career to refuse money from political action committees, a commitment he made as well in his race for Governor. He imposed on himself a term-limit of five terms in Congress, which he fulfills by leaving at the end of this session of Congress. He has carried himself with a quiet dignity, working hard for the people of his district while promoting those policies he thought best for the entire nation.

His sources of inspiration have been those individuals who overcame difficult circumstances to excel in life, including his parents, and notable public figures like Lech Walesa and Nelson Mandela. GLENN was born poor in Southeastern Illinois and rose to achieve a PhD and go on to one of the highest honors an individual can attain in the United States—to serve his fellow men and women in the Congress.

GLENN POSHARD will leave this Congress with a distinguished record: fighting for a balanced federal budget; increasing the pay, working conditions and health care for working men and women; protecting the Constitution and improving the economy of rural America. But he will also leave here with enormous affection and gratitude of his colleagues, and the thanks and devotion of his constituents, who may be seeing the end of his days in the Congress but surely not the end of his public service.

I join my colleagues in saluting the honored service of my good friend, GLENN POSHARD.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, December 19, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, in these times of automated phone responses, impersonal corporations, and indifferent employees, some see customer service as a deduction from the bottom line. However, good customer service is more important now than ever. In private industry, and in government, good service fosters trust and good feelings between constituencies and those who serve them. In a competitive market, those who perform above and beyond what people expect survive and prosper. Government leaders can always learn from good examples in American businesses.

Some of the nation's most successful business leaders have built upon a philosophy of service to their respective constituencies. Herb Kelleher, CEO of Southwest Airlines, was never content to a rest while his employees toiled. He once helped flight attendants serve drinks on a Southwest flight. On Thanksgiving and Christmas, the busiest travel times, it was rumored he worked in baggage service alongside his employees. Imagine the inspiration, working with their CEO, as they sacrificed time with their families to ensure thousands of others could be together on those important holidays. Likewise, wayward travelers at some hotels are not directed, but accompanied by employees to the destination they seek within the hotel. Such kind assistance is likely to lift the spirits of even the weariest of guests.

Sam Walton, founder of Wal-Mart, and recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom,